

We Claim:

1. An apparatus for feeding to a friction/suction-type separating arrangement flat items which, standing  
5 in stack form on a narrow side, are supported by an abutment surface and, aligned on a stop surface (6), are transported by a conveying means (5) moving to the withdrawal location, the friction/suction-type separating arrangement having at least one friction-type withdrawal means (1), which is driven in a  
10 controlled manner, and, directly downstream of that region of the friction-type withdrawal means (1) which acts on the items, at least one suction head (2), which is connected to a negative-pressure source (8),  
15 characterized in that arranged in or on the suction head (2) is a sensor (7) which measures the negative pressure in the suction head (2) and is connected to a drive control device of the conveying means (5), it being possible for the conveying means (5) to be  
20 activated in dependence on the negative pressure measured such that the foremost item at the at least one friction-type withdrawal means (1) is inclined as little as possible, with the stack pressure being as low as possible.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the drive control device is designed such that, if the negative pressure drops below a defined value, the conveying means (5) is displaced at a constant  
30 speed in the direction of the withdrawal location, and in that, if another defined negative pressure is exceeded, the conveying means (5) is stopped.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
35 in that the measured values of the sensor (7) are integrated and the conveying means (5) is displaced in

accordance with the current integrated values.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized  
in that mean values are formed from the measured values  
5 of the sensor (7) and the conveying means (5) is  
displaced in accordance with the current mean values.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that the drive control device is configured such  
10 that the speed of the conveying means (5) is in inverse  
proportion to the negative pressure measured.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that, for high items, a plurality of suction heads  
15 (2) each with a sensor (7) connected to the drive  
control device for determining the inclined position,  
and the movement of the conveying means (5) derived  
therefrom, are arranged one above the other.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized  
in that sensors are provided for determining the  
heights of the items, and the drive control device is  
configured such that, in the case of items which, on  
account of their height, do not cover over all the  
20 suction heads (2), the negative pressures of the  
suction heads (2) which are only partially covered  
25 over, if at all, are not evaluated.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
30 in that a circulating withdrawal belt (1) with suction  
openings is provided as the friction-type withdrawal  
means, the negative pressure of the downstream suction  
head (2) acting, via the suction openings, on the  
respectively foremost item.

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